

**GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO MOTION 5-17(5):
EDUCATION RENEWAL AND INNOVATION**

Motion

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) set and publish concrete targets for early childhood and student achievement within a prescribed time frame, and describe actions to be taken to achieve the targets;

AND FURTHER, that ECE and the Department of Health and Social Services substantially increase and improve community-based, GNWT-supported early childhood development programs and resources to support them;

AND FURTHER, that ECE now involve more communities, parents and teachers in implementing education renewal, and to promote greater understanding of this initiative;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

GNWT Response

The GNWT acknowledges and agrees with the need to set concrete targets for early childhood and student achievement. Approaches to setting and publishing these targets within a prescribed time frame, along with describing the actions which need to be taken to achieve these targets, will take place in conjunction with the development of the Education Renewal and Innovation (ERI) Action Plan, which is currently underway and expected to be completed by spring 2014.

The GNWT has developed the *ERI Framework: Directions for Change* (ERI Framework) through ongoing collaboration with a wide range of education partners including Aboriginal Governments, the Northwest Territories' Teachers' Association, education authorities and councils, GNWT departments, parent groups and students over a ten month period. ECE has shared the newly released ERI Framework with all teachers, principals and educational stakeholders, including education authorities, superintendents, Aboriginal Governments and non-government organizations. ECE has also invited all education stakeholders to be involved in the action planning process, as well as in the rollout of specific initiatives when deemed appropriate. A comprehensive public communications strategy is in development, which will include a public awareness campaign.

The GNWT is also committed to increasing and improving community-based GNWT-supported early childhood development programs and resources. Through the collaborative efforts of the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Health and Social Services, the Early Childhood Development Framework *Right from the Start – A Framework for Early Childhood Development in the NWT*, has actionable items to provide many of our youngest students entering school the developmental support they require to improve communication and learning skills which are needed to succeed in school. With an increased focus on early childhood development and tools such as the Early Development Instrument (EDI), these action items are intended to help improve the overall learning performance of students now and throughout a person's life. The forthcoming Early Childhood Development Action Plan will address the issue of concrete targets that outline time frames and achievement targets.

The GNWT is committed to investing in and providing for the success of the people of the Northwest Territories, enabling them to reach their full potential, to lead fulfilled lives, and to contribute to a strong and prosperous society.